

APPLICANT(S): MERON, Gavriel et al.

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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 51-71 are pending in the application. Claims 51-71 have been rejected. Claims 51, 61, 63 and 68 have been amended.

Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

The Telephone Interview

Initially, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Jung for granting and attending the telephone interview, with Caleb Pollack, Reg. No. 37,912, Rachel Bentov, representative of the assignee, Yosi Barkai, a partner at Pearl Cohen Zedek Latzer and Tami Ben Ari, an associate at Pearl Cohen Zedek Latzer on March 30, 2006. In the interview, Applicants' representatives discussed with the Examiner amendments to the independent claims that would make the claims allowable over the prior art of record. These amendments are reflected in the amendments above. After discussing the rejections and the proposed amendments, the Examiner agreed that the claims amended as in the amendments above may be allowable over the prior art rejections of record. Applicants' representatives agreed to submit the amendments in an Amendment.

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CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 51-71 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Alfano et al (US 6,240,312) in view of Lemelson (US 5,993,378). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants' independent claim 51, as amended, includes, inter alia, "a plurality of optical windows, each window covering at least an illumination source and an imager, said optical windows facing different directions". Alfano et al. does not disclose, teach or suggest this feature.. The addition of the teaching of the Lemelson reference does not cure the deficiencies of Alfano et al. disclosure. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that independent claim 51 as amended and the claims dependent therefrom are allowable over Alfano et al. in view of Lemelson.

Applicants' independent claim 61, as amended, includes, inter alia, "each optical window covering at least one imager and illumination source". Alfano et al. does not disclose, teach or suggest this feature. The addition of the teachings of the Lemelson reference does not cure the deficiencies of the Alfano et al. disclosure. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that independent claim 61 as amended and the claims depend therefrom are allowable over Alfano et al., in view of Lemelson.

Applicants' independent claim 63, as amended, includes, inter alia, "obtaining images of the in vivo sites from each of the at least two optical windows, there being covered by each optical window at least an imager and an illumination source". Alfano et al does not disclose, teach, or suggest this feature. The addition of the teachings of the Lemelson reference does not cure the deficiencies of Alfano et al. disclosure. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that independent claim 63 as amended and the claims depend therefrom are allowable over Alfano et al, in view of Lemelson.

Applicants' independent claim 68 as amended includes, inter alia, "a plurality of optical domes each covering an illumination source and an imager, each of said optical

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domes facing opposite directions". Alfano et al. does not disclose, teach, or suggest this feature. The addition of the Lemelson reference does not cure the deficiencies of the Alfano et al. disclosure. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that independent claim 68 as amended and the claims depend therefrom are allowable over Alfano et al., in view of Lemelson.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 51-71 under 35 USC §103(a) over Alfano et al in view of Lemelson be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert D. Schaffer
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 33,775

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Pearl Cohen Zedek Latzer, LLP
1500 Broadway, 12th Floor
New York, New York 10036
Tel: (646) 878-0800
Fax: (646) 878-0801